

Baptist Infer

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No. 8

State Ushers Held Great Session

The Fourteenth Annual Session of the North Carolina Ushers Convention was a tribute to one of the most determined laymen in the state, Arthur L. Williams, President. Aside from the Ministers Wives of the Woman's Auxiliary, the Ushers' Convention is the "Baby" of the General Convention and this baby is growing fast.

The Second Calvary Baptist Church, pastored by Reverend J. M. Kennedy, Charlotte, was the scene of this session. Rev. Kennedy and the good people of Second Calvary went all out to assure the Ushers that Charlotte is the Queen City in every way. The sanctuary was worshipful and air cooled for each service. Rates were reasonable, the food was good, homes were adequate and the atmosphere was right for all that went on.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

PRESIDENT WILLIAMS ISSUES CHALLENGE TO USHERS

Brother Vice President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We meet today fully aware of the conditions, circumstances and times in which we live. We cannot be faithful disciples of truth and close our eyes to the unfolding drama of history which is filled with events that are tragic as well as dramatic. As citizens of this state and nation and members of this religious body, we must do more than think and plan for the success of our own church and people of our community. We must address ourselves to this hour of crisis that encompasses not only our church, state and nation, but all nations and religions of the world. Any program that is not broad enough to include all mankind and is not deep enough to deal with the problems and drives of human nature, and not high enough to relate the human struggle creatively to the source of all values, is not sufficient for any church or people in these times. Our mission of redemption must relate itself not only to the individual needs of those who are nearest to us, but to all mankind and to the times in which we live. We who represent the church's hosts or God's hosts must seek knowledge to understand the mission of the church and must have the

faith and courage to support and help to proclaim the command that God gave Moses when He said, "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward." (Exodus 14:15)

As we observe the great program of the General Baptist Convention of North Carolina and the many ways it is reaching out through a program of teaching and training to lift us from a low level to a higher plane; and when we examine our own church program and see just where we stand, we will possibly breathe a prayer, "Lord, forgive us and try us one more time."

With this in mind, I would like to suggest three "forwards":

1. Go forward in faith
2. Go forward against evil
3. Go forward in personal religious living.

Going forward in faith is the need of the hour in most of our church communities. There are many church members who are unconcerned about missions. Jesus said: "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, then ye shall be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost part of the world."

Going forward in faith will give us a true sense of stewardship. Then we will willingly give God the tenth part of our earnings. Christian giving then is proportionate giving, it begins with a minimum of the tithe of the small income and ends with a larger share of the larger income. Proportionate giving must be commensurate with income; as income increases, the proportion increases. The early disciples "forsook all." In the early church, supreme interest in the King's business called for all-out giving. "Neither said any that ought which he possessed was his own." The same recognition of God's ownership is needed in the church today.

Our Mission program and Shaw University need an individual concern. Christ's command to go make disciples includes not only ministers and missionaries, for He speaks directly to every man, woman, boy and girl. Our convention needs more individuals who are willing to do business for God; people whose first life interest is in the work of

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THE BAPTIST INFORMER

ORGAN OF THE GENERAL BAPTIST STATE
CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

COLEMON W. KERRY, JR., *EDITOR*

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THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS



DR. R. M. PITTS

To the Baptist Family of North Carolina:

"Help Me Somebody"—

In a few short weeks we will gather in the Queen City, Charlotte, with the historic St. Paul Baptist Church and the other great churches of that city for our Annual Session. Already, I have begun earnestly praying for showers of blessings for our Annual Meeting.

Each year has shown an increase in attendance and it is expected that this will be a banner year. Personally, I wish every Bap-

tist pastor, layman, man and woman, and young person in all our churches could attend to see first hand what we are doing and share our fellowship. Plan now to be with us October 28-31.

Now, as many of you know, our books will close September 30. Many of our churches have not given us the support expected. I urge all, to put forth a concerted effort during the next few weeks. Bring your contributions up to the standard of your demands.

Ours is a great convention and a great convention is big business, and it takes money to keep it that way. Our only means of support is YOU. When you fail, all is lost.

Don't forget your promise at the One-Day Session. Be able to answer the roll call and join the parade of pastors and churches who have come up to their quota. On to Charlotte for our greatest and grandest session.

AN APPEAL—FROM THE MANAGER OF THE BAPTIST SUPPLY STORE

Dear Friends of the Store:

With a great deal of optimism we took over as manager of the Store in the middle of March. Our optimism did not wane too much when we discovered that the store owed a big sum of money to the various book companies for we had discovered that more money was owed to the store than was owed by the store. Just collect what is owed and the bills can be paid. The solution was just that simple — so we thought.

Here, about six months later, we have discovered that the solution was not so simple. In the first place many of the people listed on the store's records as owing have said that they do not owe a bill. We know at least some of them are telling the truth for they have come up with the cancelled checks. How these names were carried on the books after they had paid, we do not know. In the second place, collecting that which is owed is much too slow a process for those we owe.

Such being the case, we are asking churches, organizations, and individuals who are interested in helping maintain the store to *give* a CONTRIBUTION to help us LIQUIDATE the present indebtedness.

I am still OPTIMISTIC. The Baptist Supply Store can become one of the chief resources of revenue. But we must pay what we owe and we must restock with a supply that is in demand by the buying public.

Help us to help the store become what it is capable of becoming — a self-sustaining institution.

Sincerely yours,
John W. Fleming

— Editorially Speaking —

In spite of the appeal of our illustrious Governor, Mr. Terry Sanford, racial demonstrations are continuing in many areas of our state. There are some who agree that the Negro has made his point. That the power structure of the state has gotten the message that the Negro is not satisfied. Now that the message has gotten across, desist, go home, sit down and we will eventually rectify the situation.

There are some communities in our fair state, that did get the message and set in motion machinery to comply with the request of their Negro citizens. Committees were appointed, negotiations were begun and results were in evidence.

Charlotte, Durham, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Statesville, High Point, Gastonia, Asheville, Fayetteville, Concord, Kinston and Cabarrus County, to mention a few, have made some progress in granting to all its citizens equal opportunity and privilege.

There remain, however, many areas where negotiation is not possible. The power structure will not talk or even listen. When this attitude is taken, there is no other course to take but the American way, protest and demonstrate.

The Executive Committee of North Carolina Council on Human Relations, meeting in Wake Forest on July 11, warmly commended Governor Terry Sanford "for his vigorous and constructive leadership in the current racial crisis."

"This effort on the part of the Governor and state agencies places North Carolina in the main stream of our national life, and is in line both with our public conscience and our democratic ideals," the Council said.

At this same meeting, the Executive Committee of the Council issued a statement saying in part: "The most trying period may still be ahead of us. Having made substantial gains toward equal rights and opportunities, Negroes are going to be more, not less, impatient with those inequalities and indignities that remain. Closed doors here and there will stand out as symbols of the injustices of the past, and will be all the more resented."

Thus, even in these cities and communities where some doors have been opened, our struggle must not end until *all* doors are open. If we cannot negotiate, then we must demonstrate.

New Found Freedoms are Revealing

Segregation, from an economic standpoint, is expensive to the segregator, but more expensive to the segregated. Blight, slums and high welfare cost

is, in part, the result of the attitude of the segregator. This cost he must meet through taxes. The house he refuses to repair, the street he refuses to fix, the job he refuses to give, keep the segregated in a strait between life and death. When, then the segregated seeks to rise above his present economic level he must *pay more* and *get less*. If you doubt this, buy a house or compare the cost of land and homes in a Negro development with that in a white development and you'll get the message.

In this age of transition, the Negro businessman must wake up or be snowed under. Where his economic resources will not allow him to compete individually, he must seek to pool and form partnerships to meet the demands of this age. With freedom comes obligations and responsibilities never before imposed upon the race.

It is true, the Negro has made more progress over such a short period of time, than any other race. It is also true that many have become accustomed to things as they are. Many are satisfied and complacent. Others have more than they have ever had and are not concerned.

Stepping Stones to the Future

The seeming feud between the four major organizations engaged in championing our cause, must never burst into flame. There is room for each to work and not at the expenses of the other. Race leaders must become aware of this and at the local level, keep intact these forces that have brought us through. No one organization can do everything, but each can function in the area best suited to its designed interest.

Thus, the first step is to keep intact those organized forces that have and can get the ear of those we want to get our message, be it legal or social in nature.

Second, teach, lead and if need be, carry our people to the place of registration. Not only register, but *vote*. With the ballot, our political leaders can do only what we allow them to do. It matters not what you think about it, if you are a citizen of any community, you should exercise your God given right to cast a vote on election day.

There are some who don't believe in mixing religion and politics. When you hear this, you know the speaker is not informed. Politics is but the science of Government and who is more orderly than God Himself?

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE USHERS' CONVENTION

Tuesday morning, July 16, one could tell that something important and exciting was about to take place at the Second Calvary Baptist Church. Ladies, neatly dressed, with fresh aprons on were seen rushing toward the basement area. Delivery trucks were lined up at the curb. Men and women, dressed in their Sunday best were moving in place. The pastor, car loaded with ladies and boxes, rushing to see that everything was in readiness. An inquirer passed and asked, "What's happening here so early?" "Why, the State Ushers' Convention," was the gleeful reply.

So, soon, before the first delegate arrived, the pace was set and everything was in order for one of the grandest sessions ever held.

Rev. A. H. McDaniel, Moderator, Rowan Baptist Association and pastor, Union Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, brought the opening message. Although the full delegation had not arrived and the church was only half full, Rev. McDaniel preached as never before. This message put everyone in the mood for what was to come.

The welcome program, by the host church, was second to none. Every area of the Charlotte community was represented. Rev. J. M. Kennedy, pastor, was at his best and the music was excellent. No usher could feel as a stranger or unwelcome at the conclusion.

Rev. J. J. Alexander, pastor, Friendship, Hickory, is a seasoned, experienced, dynamic, thoughtful and powerful preacher. Short in stature, but a giant in the pulpit, Brother Alexander moved, stirred and shook the Convention with Gospel truths.

The theme speakers, Mrs. Clara Vinson, Rev. H. S. Diggs, Mrs. L. V. Troxler, and Mrs. Ruby D. Amos were well prepared and delivered masterful addresses. The program committee is to be commended for their selections.

The Convention's featured speaker, Rev. L. C. Moore, Philadelphia, was unavoidably detained and was not present. However, President Williams asked Rev. H. S. Diggs, Providence, Rockingham, to pinch hit. Diggs came through and set us aflame. "If these hold their peace, the rocks will cry out." Diggs contends that because the church is so silent on vital issues, the rocks of the world are crying out. This was a home run sermon.

Rev. J. E. McGrier, Chairman of the Oratorical Contest Committee is a never say die worker. With a determined will, Rev. McGrier assured himself and the Convention that this part of the program would be greatly improved over the previous year.

This year, there were four contestants. It was an inspiration to hear these young people speak Poised, dignified, clean cut, unusually well prepared, and unafraid, each set out to be a winner. The Judges had a most difficult task in deciding.

First Place: Mr. Raymond Perry, Coley Springs Baptist Church. Mr. Perry lives in Norlina and plans to enter N. C. State College this fall.

Second Place: Miss Carolyn Ledbetter, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Charlotte. Miss Ledbetter is a high school senior.

Third Place: Miss Gracie Brown, First Baptist, Wilmington. Miss Brown plans to attend Fayetteville State Teachers College.

Fourth Place: Miss Marion Brodie, Mitchell Baptist Church, Louisburg. Miss Brodie plans to attend Shaw University.

(The Informer will present pictures and the addresses of these young people.)

Rev. O. B. Burson, Shiloh, Henderson and Coley Springs Baptist Church, is Dean of the Ushers' Convention. Burson does an unusual job in every area of the Ushers task. He ever seeks to inject new ideas, take the commonplace and add significance to it, encourage and inspire the ushers to put forth their best efforts, Mrs. Wilda Tillerson, First Aid Chairman, and Dean Burson work as a team.

To many of the local delegates who had never attended the Convention, this was an experience. Many were heard saying, "I never realized there was so much to the ushers' job. Why, I thought all we had to do was seat people, give out fans, bulletins, and pass the offering trays. But here, I've learned so much in such a short time.

This then, is the core. What we don't know can be learned when we have leaders who will teach us. Again, what we don't know we can learn if we will go where what we need is taught. Still further, what we don't know we can learn when we show an interest and a desire.

The State Ushers' Convention needs ushers. Far too many churches, affiliated with our State Convention, are not encouraging their ushers to attend these meetings and join this body. This is not only a hindrance to the state program but it affects the local church as well.

Greetings to the Ushers were brought by Mrs. C. E. McLester, representing the Women's Convention, Mr. Frank Marshall, Laymen's League, Mr. J. T. Hawkins, Sunday School and BTU Convention and the Editor pinch hit for Executive Secretary Sherrill, who unfortunately, can't be everywhere at the same time.

The closing message was brought by the Editor, Coleman W. Kerry — and the curtain fell on a great session of the Ushers' Convention. The 1964 Session will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, after the second Sunday in July (July 14, 15, and 16) with the St. John Baptist Church, Dunn, N. C., Rev. B. B. Fe'der, pastor, Plan your vacation so that you can attend.



Sisters and Young People of the Woman's Auxiliary:

My heart is overwhelmed and I thank God for all of you and your loyal support to the Cause. Because of you, my work is a pleasure and joy in spite of the pressing demands.

It is not possible for me to say to you now, what is in my heart and on my mind.

All I can do is sit, meditate and try to relive every moment of our past session. Do tell all the sisters who were not present about our meeting and invite them to be with us in January.

Accept my thanks for what you have done and forgive me for not saying more now. Do pray much for our Convention and you'll hear from me soon.

Your President,
Mrs. M. A. Horne

ANNUAL SESSIONS—STATE BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BTU CONVENTIONS

The State Baptist Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Conventions had a most productive recent annual session.

Meeting in historic old New Bern, the Reverend John T. Parks, host pastor and the congregation of St. John Baptist Church, gave a royal welcome to the members and visitors and continued throughout the three days to show a gracious hospitality.

The preaching was unusually good. The Reverends Horton, Epting, and Logan showed that they had given a great deal of time and thought to their messages. Each had that happy mixture of intellectual respectability and emotional fervor which makes for a good sermon. And each man spoke as if he was keenly aware that he was God's channel.

President Butler delivered an address which was marked by its approach to a wide range of subjects. President Hawkins gave a "fireside-chat," full of wisdom and practical information.

The keynote address, delivered by Attorney F. B. McKissick, was of the mood and temper that has made this man famous. Citing the Old Testament story of the twelve spies sent out to look over the Promised Land, he pictured the Negro freedom fighters as being from the same mold as Caleb and Joshua. Those who are against the freedom movement, or who doubt its value, he classed as being of the same mold as the ten spies who said that "we were as grasshoppers in their sight—yes, we were as grasshoppers in our own sight."

Mr. McKissick has been labeled by a national magazine as North Carolina's "Mr. Civil Rights" And that was the mood of his speech.

Teaching was done by Reverend E. Burns Turner, Miss Beatrice Underwood, Mr. James Daye, and Miss Miriam Ricks. These people, dealing with Sunday School officers, teachers, BTU leaders, Va-

cation Bible School Workers, really put their hearts and soul's into their work.

They had their courses outlined, their lessons planned, and they were able to arouse the enthusiasm of the students, even in 95 degree weather.

An amount, in round figures, of \$2,200.00 was raised.

Next year's session, Tuesday after the first Sunday in August, will be held with the First Baptist Church, Raleigh, Reverend Charles W. Ward, pastor.

STATE USHERS — (Continued from Page 1)

God and His cause. Whether the business is large or small, it can be run for God on Christian principles, not for selfish ends, but for spiritual ends. Therefore every Christian should count it a privilege to be in partnership with God for the benefit of mankind.

God has not given us time, abilities, or other gifts and made us responsible for their development and use without promising a reward here and hereafter. Faithfulness in our stewardship is the first requirement to more abundant living. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

Secondly, we must go forward against evil. Nowhere does the scripture teach us to support the evil but we are exhorted to come from among it and be separate. Nothing is more heart-breaking in community and church life than to work with people who profess to be Christians, serving a God who created heaven and earth — yet they are never willing to be counted with those opposed to evil. I refer again to John 10:10. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." This passage has been taught and preached for many centuries, yet there have been evil practices existing that would guarantee that some of God's creation never has received it.

Segregation, discrimination with all the evils that stem from them have been a destructive force for a long time. But thanks to a just God who has

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CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE — GENERAL STATE CONVENTION DURING THE MONTH OF JULY, 1963

Foreign Missions	\$ 4,222.53
Shaw University	2,597.93
Divinity School	100.00
Oxford Orphanage	297.00
STATE MISSIONS:	
Designated—Unified	\$ 2,660.95
Baptist State Convention	250.00
Building Fund	14.52
Baptist Informer	55.00
OTHER RECEIPTS:	
Designated Gifts	\$ 945.53
Miscellaneous	172.23
GRAND TOTAL:	\$11,501.19

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



The Reverend Fisher Robert Mason was born September 9, 1879, in Davie County, North Carolina. He attended the public schools there and did further studies at the State Normal School in Salisbury, North Carolina under the late Dr. J. O. Crosby.

At an early age, he became a member of the Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Reverend T. H. Hairston, pastor. While there, he served in every capacity possible. It was during this period that he felt the call to the ministry. He applied for and was granted a license and was immediately called to two churches.

He was called to the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Salisbury, North Carolina in 1902. Accepting the pastorate of the church, and not having finished his education, he entered Livingstone College and continued his studies until 1908. The cooperation of the school meant much to the growth of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

In 1903, he married the former Miss Fannie Bryant. To this union was born one son, Everette Henry, who lived to be five years of age, one daughter, Lillie Mae, and two adopted children, Frank Bryant and Evelyn Bates Hunt.

Following the death of his father-in-law, the school board of Salisbury elected him principal of the school, a position which he held for three years until failing health made it necessary for him to resign.

Always active in religious and civic matters, Dr. Mason has held the following positions: Member of the Rowan Baptist Association; Ass't. Secretary-treasurer of the Executive Board; president of the Western North Carolina Education and Missionary Convention; president of the Ministers' Conference at Shaw University and secretary of the Ministers' Conference at Bennett College, Greensboro, North

Carolina. Dr. Mason was also responsible for setting up Baptist Training Unions in all of the churches.

A great evangelist, Dr. Mason has conducted revivals from Atlanta, Georgia to Boston, Massachusetts. As a pastor, he has served Mt. Zion Baptist Church for 26 years, Buncombe Baptist Church for 37 years, First Baptist Church, High Point, 11 years, Temp'e Memorial, 23 years and Liberty Grove, Trinity, 23 years.

With the satisfaction that comes with the knowledge of a job well done, Dr. Mason now plans to retire from the field and spend his remaining time with his family.

HUNTLEY'S MANUAL

Dr. T. E. Huntley, Pastor, Central Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri, author, lecturer, and world traveler, has just released "Huntley's Manual for Every Baptist." This concise work of but four basic chapters contains nuggets of gold for those who seek to administer the affairs of Baptist Churches in the Baptist tradition.

Dr. Huntley devoted an entire chapter to what Baptists should know about the Bible. His refreshing interpretation deals with deep theological aspects of the Bible in such a way that laymen can understand and appreciate Bible doctrines better. Spiritual, social and material revelations live as one reads.

Chapter two deals with what every Baptist should know about the practical aspects of the Doctrine. How to avoid church problems, how to handle it if it comes, the status of those who serve and how to take spiritual exercise. Preachers will delight in his treatment.

Chapter three talks about what every Baptist should know about his pastor and the deaconship. Dr. Huntley centers this chapter in the Bible and traces the development of the church from its beginning to its present state. The relationship of the pastor and deacon is unfolded in such a way that deacons themselves will get a new slant on their role.

The final chapter is a safeguard for the future, what every Baptist should know about the Let Us Nots — a refreshing, helpful book that will inform and inspire. Write your Baptist Supply Store today.

Baptist Twins

Baptist Informer

Plus

Missionary Helper

Equals

A well informed Baptist

\$3.00 per year for the two



MRS. SHERRILL CONDUCTS INSTITUTE — Seated L-R: Wallace Lee, Gloria Greene, Frances Tate, Norma Gibbs, Ida Heigh, Marshall Forney, Norman Gentry, Russell Gentry, and John Reed. Standing L-R: Cathy Lee, Julius Dalton, Jim Martin, Linda Greenwood, Mary Allen, Edith Allen, John Lee, Jr., Joe Casey, Sam Lee, Mrs. J. H. Smith and Mrs. O. L. Sherrill. The energetic and enthusiastic group of teen-agers above are a part of a class taught by Mrs. O. L. Sherrill at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Waynesville, N. C. Rev. J. H. Smith, pastor. Mrs. Sherrill is in great demand as a teacher and counselor for youth across the state.

AMONG THE BRETHREN

Congratulations to Rev. Jordan C. Harris. Brother Harris recently celebrated his first anniversary as pastor of First Baptist, Statesville. This is Brother Harris' fifth pastorate and each step has been a little higher. Many outstanding churchmen and community leaders were on hand to witness this gala occasion. Among the gifts was a check for \$100.00 from the church. Brother Harris, keep \$98.00 and send me \$2.00, please.

Rev. R. D. Lucas is making remarkable progress as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church and community leader in Kings Mountain, N. C. Lucas is field worker for the Ebenezer Association, on the Recreation Commission, Dedevlopment Association and Commissioner of Little League baseball. He attends the Convention too.

Rev. C. D. Martin has recently been called to the Elizabeth Baptist Church, Marshville. Martin formerly pastored Mt. Sinai, Mt. Holly and is one of our up and coming pastors.

Rev. J. M. Kearns, President, St. John Sunday School Convention, is a great pastor and host. Rev. H. E. Edwards, Maxton, is Vice President, Bro. C. E. Johnson, Treasurer and Dr. J. J. Johnson, Fairmont, is Director. Through Dr. Johnson, the Editor spoke for this Convention. When Dr. Johnson presented the honorarium, the Editor put himself on program for 1964.

Bro. Charles A. Freeman, Laurinburg, a layman in attendance at the State Ushers' Convention has the solution for the Ushers. He says we need a uni-

form system of ushering throughout the state, more time allotted for classes and instruction, a state instructor for the State Ushers' Convention, preferably a layman; and instructors in place and on time. This advice was given in a shade tree session while the main body was in session. That's always the case.

Rev. J. A. White, Shiloh, Charlotte and president of the Mount Peace Sunday School and BTU Convention is a great soul and knows how to appreciate the State Convention's servants. Dr. White presented your Editor, took an offering and gave it to the Editor on the spot. Thanks, Doctor, I'll be back.

The office equipment is paid for in full. Special recognition will be given those who shared in our next issue. Now we need a typewriter. Rev. White and the Mt. Peace S. S. and BTU Convention made the first contribution. The address is Baptist Informer, 603 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh N. C. Any amount will be appreciated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention—August 27-30—New York City; President M. A. Horne, Women's Night Speaker
- National Baptist Convention on, U. S. A. Inc., Cleveland, Ohio; President R. M. Pitts, preaches Friday 12:45 P. M.
- General Baptist State Convention, St. Paul, Charlotte, N. C., October 28-31.
- National Baptist Convention of America—September 3-8—Dallas, Texas
- Progressive National Baptist Convention—September 3-8—Detroit, Michigan.

STATE USHERS — (Continued from Page 5)
called out some great leaders as He did Moses of old and commissioned them to tell Pharaoh to let his people go. May I challenge this great body to support our leaders by giving good fellowship. May we so dedicate ourselves to the cause of freedom that we will give both moral and financial support that men everywhere shall be free. God is on our side so long as we keep humble. We have been commanded a long time ago to go forward against evil. Even though late starting to follow great leadership, let us continue to the end.

Third, may we go forward in Personal Religious living. Christian Religion is active. It cannot be placed under a bushel and kept hid. Luke tells us that after the day of Pentecost, the Christians witnessed from house to house adding to the church daily those that would be saved. Someone has asked some startling questions: "Have we a right to evangelize unless we utilize?" "Does not the man who separates winning from enlistment and who presses one while he is indifferent to the other, convict himself of failure to understand the Spirit and purpose of Jesus?"

A man stands on the bank of a mountain stream and catches trout. He feels a thrill in catching the fish and is content with the thrill. He throws the fish back on the shore to die and go to waste. He does this day after day and boasts of his wonderful catches. What shall we say of his sportsmanship? Mountain trout were not meant to afford a mere thrill for some fisherman and to add to the story he may tell for his own glorification. Oh, how much more value is a man than a fish. It is a tragedy if having been brought to birth we fail to feed and nourish and bring it to full maturity. We will make slow progress in building Christ's Churches if babes brought into Christ's family are to be left to gasp feebly for a time and ultimately to be lost to the service of Christ and His church.

We must move forward in personal religious living in order to nourish and develop other Christians until they can take their places in society with all Christian dignity that the name of Christ may be proclaimed to the far ends of the earth.

The 14th chapter of the book of Exodus gives a beautiful account of how God led the children of Israel after speaking through His servant, Moses, telling them to go forward. It is a familiar story of how they were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. For three days they followed their guide, moving when the cloud moved and stopping when it stopped.

Even though moving by God's direction they were followed by Pharaoh and his host. When children of Israel came to the Red Sea they were greatly troubled because the Great Sea was before them, mountain on each side and Pharaoh's army behind them. Moses looked to God and he was commanded to "Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward." The pillar of cloud changed its position

and became a light and a guard for it stood behind the children of Israel giving light ahead of them as they marched through the Red Sea on dry ground but showed darkness to Pharaoh's army. Pharaoh suggested to wait for daylight to continue his trail. This he did but came to a tragic end when they were drowned in the midst of the sea.

Christians of all ages, have testified that God is a sure Guide and Protector, before, behind and on either side. God is light and love to all who obey Him.

When He says, "Go forward," it is safe to obey him and dangerous to disobey!

Arthur L. Williams, President

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

For the ongoing and progressive stride of our Convention, the following recommendations are for your consideration. I recommend:

1. A closer relationship of all District or County Ushers' Conventions to their parent bodies. This can be done in the following manner:
 - (A) By keeping the state program before the people at all times and following each convention. Send a financial report to the Executive Secretary of the General Baptist State Convention.
 - (B) Let each of these County or District Organizations sponsor a contestant for the oratorical contest held in each annual session of this convention.
2. A budget for 1963-64 of \$5,000.00 and let us begin working on this budget immediately. This can be done by asking each adult usher to give a personal donation of \$1.00 and all others \$.50 and let this stated amount be minimum.
3. That we encourage increased support to Shaw University by allowing Dr. J. L. Tilley, Director of Public Relations at Shaw to keep us properly informed concerning our school.
4. That we seek to have each Association or District Institute provide a class for ushers in order to improve and keep ourselves abreast of current trends.
5. That every District Conventional area appoint a reporter who will send news of our activities to Mrs. Ruby D. Amos of Kittrell, N. C., who will in turn send the Ushers' activities to the Editor of the Baptist Informer for publication.
6. That we give full cooperation to the chairman of each department of this convention and loyal support to our Baptist Objectives.

Rev. O.B. Burson, Dean
Mrs. Wilda Tillerson, First Aid
Mrs. A. Philps, President
Junior Department
Rev. J. E. McGrier, Chairman
Oratorical Contest Committee
Mr. Arthur L. Williams, President